

IEPA Log No.: **C-0110-15**
CoE appl. #: **CEMVR-OD-P-2015-314**

Public Notice Beginning Date: **February 26, 2016**
Public Notice Ending Date: **March 18, 2016**

Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act
Amendments of 1972

Section 401 Water Quality Certification to Discharge into Waters of the State

Public Notice/Fact Sheet Issued By:

Illinois Environmental Protection Agency
Bureau of Water
Permit Section
1021 North Grand Avenue East
Post Office Box 19276
Springfield, Illinois 62794-9276
217/782-3362

Name and Address of Discharger: Springfield City Water, Light & Power – 200 East Lake Drive,
Springfield, IL 62712

Discharge Location: Near Springfield in Sections 12-14, 23-36, 31-36 of Township 15N, Range 5W; Sections 1-4, 9, and 16 of Township 14N, Range 5W; Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31 of Township 15N, Range 4W of the 3rd P.M. in Sangamon County.

Name of Receiving Water: Lake Springfield

Project Description: Continuance of bank stabilization projects and maintenance of existing bank stabilization projects.

The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) has received an application for a Section 401 water quality certification to discharge into the waters of the state associated with a Section 404 permit application received by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Public Notice period will begin and end on the dates indicated in the heading of this Public Notice. The last day comments will be received will be on the Public Notice period ending date unless a commenter demonstrating the need for additional time requests an extension to this comment period and the request is granted by the IEPA. Interested persons are invited to submit written comments on the project to the IEPA at the above address. Commenters shall provide their names and addresses along with comments on the certification application. Commenters may include a request for public hearing. The certification and notice number(s) must appear on each comment page.

The attached Fact Sheet provides a description of the project and the antidegradation assessment.

The application, Public Notice/Fact Sheet, comments received, and other documents are available for inspection and may be copied at the IEPA at the address shown above between 9:30 a.m. and 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday when scheduled by the interested person.

If written comments or requests indicate a significant degree of public interest in the certification application, the IEPA may, at its discretion, hold a public hearing. Public notice will be given 30 days before any public hearing. If a Section 401 water quality certification is issued, response to relevant comments will be provided at the time of the certification. For further information, please call Darren Gove at 217/782-3362.

DRG:C-0110-15_401 PN and FS_17Mar15.docx

Springfield City Water, Light & Power (CWLP; “Applicant”) has applied for a 401 Water Quality Certification for renewal of Army Corps Permit No. CEMVR-OD-P-2005-1063 which was issued in August 2006 and expires December 31, 2015. This permit was a reauthorization of CENCR-OD-S-311750 which was issued in February 1996. This original permit expired in December 2000 and was extended to December 2005. These permits were granted to stabilize approximately 10,000 feet of shoreline along Lake Springfield. The project location includes Sections 12-14, 23-26, 31-36 in Township 15 North, Range 5 West, Sections 1-4, 9 and 16 in Township 14 North, Range 5 West, and Sections 7, 18, 19, 30, and 31 in Township 15 North, Range 4 West in Sangamon County. The current request for reauthorization involves various alternative bank stabilization techniques as well as maintenance to existing bank stabilizations. The alternatives proposed include vegetative buffers, stone riprap, gabion baskets, and riprap breakwaters. Where appropriate gabions, riprap, and riprap breakwaters will be placed over filter fabric and /or a bed of 2” filter stone; no asphalt materials will be utilized. The Applicant describes this project as many small projects around the lake with the majority of these projects consisting of adding riprap to or on top of existing rip rap that has been in place for decades. It is estimated that 5,000’ of shoreline will be stabilized/repared along Lake Springfield each year for a period of 10 years, or approximately 50,000’ of shoreline will be stabilized/repared at the end of the 10 year permit. The project will not require any mitigation, and the streambank improvements could potentially improve water quality and will not violate applicable water quality standards.

Information used in this review was obtained from the Applicant in a document entitled, Individual Permit, Joint Application Form for Illinois dated February 24, 2015.

Identification and Characterization of the Affected Water Body.

According to the draft 2016 Illinois Integrated Water Quality Report and Section 303(d) List, Lake Springfield (IL_REF) has been assessed by Illinois EPA and is listed as not supporting Aquatic Life and Aesthetic Quality uses. The causes listed for impairment are Dissolved Oxygen and Phosphorus (Total) for Aquatic Life Use and Aquatic Algae (non-pollutant), Phosphorus (Total), and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) for Aesthetic Quality Use. Lake Springfield is listed as fully supporting Fish Consumption and Public and Food Processing Water Supplies uses. Primary Contact Recreation and Secondary Contact uses have not been assessed. Lake Springfield is not listed as biologically significant in the 2008 Illinois Department of Natural Resources Publication *Integrating Multiple Taxa in a Biological Stream Rating System*; nor is it given an integrity rating in that document. Lake Springfield is not designated as an enhanced water pursuant to the dissolved oxygen water quality standard.

Identification of Proposed Pollutant Load Increases or Potential Impacts on Uses.

The pollutant load increases that could occur from this project include some possible increases in total suspended solids. The total suspended solids increase would be minimal and in most cases non-existent due to the fact that the majority of these projects consist of adding riprap to or on top of existing riprap that has been in place for decades. If breakwaters are utilized for stabilization, a private contractor will be utilized, there will be no disruption of the shoreline, and filter fabric will be placed under new riprap. The project's proposed bank stabilization will include the use of natural vegetative buffers, stone riprap, gabion baskets, and riprap breakwaters which will reduce bank erosion and provide buffers along the shores of Lake Springfield.

Fate and Effect of Parameters Proposed for Increased Loading.

If increases in suspended solids occur they will be local and temporary. As stated above, the majority of projects will not cause an increase in loading of total suspended solids. Filter fabric will be placed under any new riprap structures which will prevent increased loading of total suspended solids to the lake.

Purpose and Social & Economic Benefits of the Proposed Activity.

Current conditions of the public areas surrounding Lake Springfield are in need of maintenance and stabilization. The continuation of the shoreline stabilization project will improve the condition of the lake and improve water quality within the lake by slowing or stopping shoreline erosion reducing the amount of sediment, chemicals, and nutrients entering the lake and enable Lake Springfield to meet water quality standards.

Assessments of Alternatives for Less Increase in Loading or Minimal Environmental Degradation.

The only alternatives to the proposed project would be a "no action" alternative or additional more costly types of bank stabilization. The "no-action" alternative would leave the shoreline in an un-stabilized condition and be impractical due to the benefits to the lake provided by the project. The bank stabilization techniques proposed for this project will limit increases in loading and minimize environmental degradation. This project is a renewal of a long standing Corps Permit that originated in 1996 and was previously renewed in 2000 and 2006. The bank stabilization project will reduce bank erosion and provide natural vegetative buffers along the shores of Lake Springfield which may result in an improvement in overall water quality of the lake.

Summary Comments of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Regional Planning Commissions, Zoning Boards or Other Entities

Illinois Department of Natural Resources reviewed the proposed project (IDNR Project #1511598) in April 2015 and recommended that riprap not be placed too deep into the littoral zone as to reduce available spawning areas for sunfishes and that erosion control fabrics not include plastics and be designed in such ways that prevent the entanglement of wildlife. IDNR had no objection to issuance of a U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) permit if these

recommendations are adopted. In a letter from the Applicant to the Corps dated May 15, 2015, the Applicant agreed to these IDNR recommendations.

Agency Conclusion.

This preliminary assessment was conducted pursuant to the Illinois Pollution Control Board regulation for Antidegradation found at 35 Ill. Adm. Code 302.105 (antidegradation standard) and was based on the information available to the Agency at the time this assessment was written. We tentatively find that the proposed activity will result in the attainment of water quality standards; that all technically and economically reasonable measures to avoid or minimize the extent of the proposed increase in pollutant loading have been incorporated into the proposed activity; and that this activity will benefit the community at large and Lake Springfield by improving and stabilizing the shoreline thus reducing or stopping shoreline erosion. Comments received during the 401 Water Quality Certification public notice period will be evaluated before a final decision is made by the Agency.